

1. A method of rapidly depressurizing a mold for curing retreated or new tires, the mold having an upper platen, a lower platen, and a central rim for sealing the tire at the beads, the central rim being open to atmospheric pressure at the radially inner surfaces, the radially outer surfaces in combination with the upper platen and lower platen forming a toroidal pressure chamber for curing the tire; the method comprising the steps of:

15 2. The method of rapidly depressurizing a mold for curing retread or new tires of claim 1 wherein the step of opening the frangible member includes the step of rupturing a portion of the frangible member at the predetermined pressure P_1 .

4. An improved mold for curing retreaded or new tires, the mold having
an upper platen
a lower platen
a central rim, the central rim having a radially inner surface open to
atmospheric pressure and an exterior surface in combination with the upper
platen and lower platen forming toroidal pressure chamber for curing a tire; the
improved mold being characterized by a frangible member being attached to an
opening in the central rim and being connected on a radially inner surface of the
rim, the frangible member opens to atmospheric pressure P_0 when the chamber
pressure reaches a predetermined pressure P_1 , P_1 being greater than the tire curing
pressure P_c .

5. The improved mold of claim 4 wherein the frangible member has a rupture element breakable at a predetermined pressure P_1 .

5 6. The improved mold of claim 4 wherein the mold is for large off-road tires.

7. The improved mold of claim 4 wherein the frangible member opens at predetermined pressures in the 200 to 250 p.s.i. range.

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8. The improved mold of claim 4 wherein the frangible member has an exhaust flow diverter for redirecting the flow 90° relative to the path exiting the rim.

9. The improved mold of claim 4 wherein all exhaust flows and centrally
15 directed initially within the central rim.

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